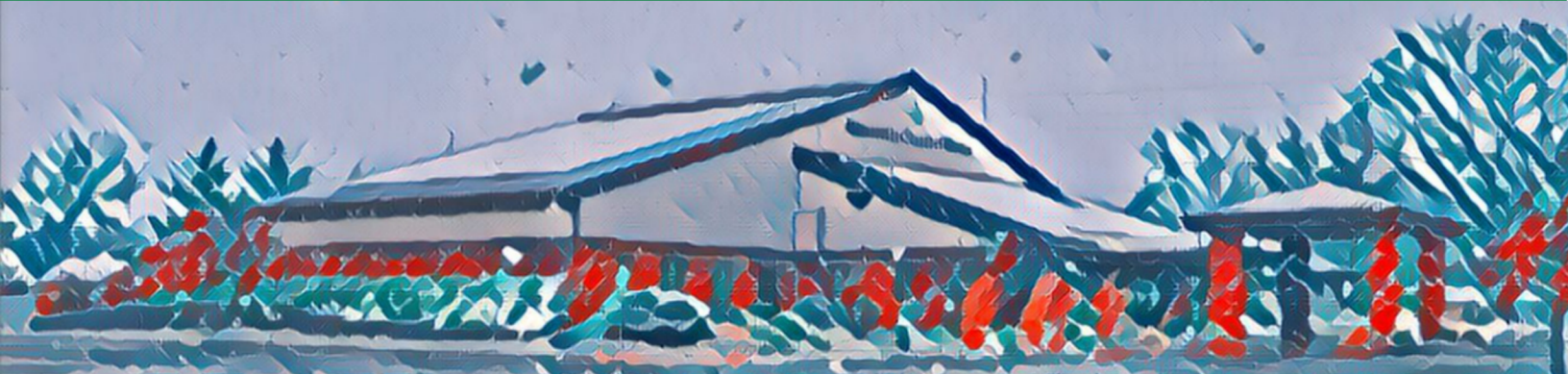


# ***THE MIDWEEK***



## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM**

This week, Ron Ropp will preach a sermon on the theme of forgiveness using the scripture Matthew 18:15-35.



## **After Worship**

### **Adult CE**

#### **Journey Groups:**

Group A (20's-30's)

First Office

Group B (40's-50's)

Conference Room

Group C (60's and above)

Room 4

### **Children & Youth CE**

Pre-K-1st Grade

Room 11

2nd-5th Grade

Room 12 & 9

Junior High

Room 8

High School

Room 7 & 5



**Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).

The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).



## Goshen College Choir Concert

**THIS Friday, February 24 at 7:30pm (Next week!)**

The Goshen College Chamber Choir will be performing a concert program "Lead with Love" at 7:30pm on Friday, February 24 here at the Mennonite Church of Normal as a part of their 2023 Midwest tour. View a flyer [here](#).

The music program at Goshen College is well-known for its outstanding ensembles and dedication to the arts. This group from Goshen, Indiana, will share the college's rich singing tradition with inspiring and thought-provoking choral selections. The Chamber Choir, under the direction of Dr. Scott Hochstetler, will perform Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened (G.F. Handel), Symphony No. 9 Mvt. IV ("Ode to Joy" Beethoven), Stomp the Fire (A. Ramsey), and Lead with Love (M. DeMore), among other selections. The concert will feature instrumentalists as well as Dr. H. Roz Woll, mezzo soprano soloist.

The concert program is a selection of music expressing gratitude, joy, and love. Striving to affirm music's power to transcend time and place, bringing all together in the spirit of acceptance. An offering to support the choir will be taken during the concert. You are cordially invited to join us for this special concert event.

## Ash Wednesday Services



**TODAY Wednesday, February 22 at noon and 6pm**

To begin this Lenten journey together there will be hosting two short Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday, February 22nd during the noon hour and again at 6pm for those who would like to participate. It will include Scripture, time for silent reflection and prayer, and imposition of ashes.

*Shared by the Worship Commission*



## Supporting the Administration Commission

Please take a quick moment to send a message to the Administration Commission as we begin the last week of our month of prayer for their work. Words of encouragement and affirmation are welcomed, as well as any ideas to support their work. You can do this by emailing the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team. Thank you for supporting the important work of the Administration Commission in this way!

*From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team*



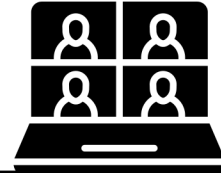


## Meals Needed!

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Are you able to help us feed the choir ahead of their concert? Any contributions will be greatly appreciated! **There is still a need for rolls and salad.** Please sign up [here](#)!

## Zoom Conversation



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**TOMORROW, Thursday, February 23**

On Thursday, February 23, Menno Media will be hosting a Zoom conversation with author Kevin Nye to discuss his book, *GRACE CAN LEAD US HOME: A Christian Call to End Homelessness*. (This is one of the books that all three Journey Groups are reading this year.) He will speak about his work with people experiencing homelessness, and what lead him to write this challenging book. You can register [here](#).

*Shared by the Discipling Commission*



## Journey Groups

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This Sunday, February 26th, will be the last Sunday of the Winter quarter, so all three groups will be rotating books once again. Participants can place copies of the books they no longer need in the Conference room and pick up a copy of the book they will be using for the Spring quarter. Beginning March 5, Journey Group A (20's and 30's) will be reading *Invited*, Journey Group B (40's and 50's) will be reading *What is the Bible*, and Journey Group C (age 60 and above) will be reading *Grace Will Lead Us Home*.

*From the Discipling Commission*

## Sharing Our Gifts



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Thank you again for sharing your photos of you sharing your gifts with us! If you've not sent a photo yet, please do so! We're all eager to see how you are serving in your community!

*Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team*

## Noisy Offering



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This year's Noisy Offering will be given to Project Oz, a local non-profit that serves youth and families in Bloomington-Normal. Members of Journey Group B, who at that time were discussing the book *Grace Will Lead Us Home*, felt that this organization's work with homeless youth was in line with many of the learnings from this book, and was something that MCN should continue to support. The Christian Education Committee agreed, and the Discipling Commission contacted Project Oz; they are in need of financial support and would be grateful for any amount that we can provide. We will be explaining more about their mission and services in an upcoming Children's Time, but in the meantime you can learn more about this organization on their website [here](#).

*From the Discipling Commission*



## Commission and Team Members

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New year, new reminder about the upcoming vacancies on many commissions. If you see yourself or someone else serving, please contact a member of SGDT. Below is a list of commission and team members' end of term status. As there will be many vacancies this year, we encourage people to think about how they could serve. As interest arises, please share with a team member to let this be known! Please contact Nancy, Kristen, Shelly, Holly, or Kevin. Thank you! [Commission Members Term End Status - Google Docs](#).

*Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team*

## Easter Lilies



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Easter Lilies! Would you like to order an Easter lily for our Easter worship service? As in other years, we are planning to use lilies to enhance our Easter celebration. If you are interested in purchasing one, call or email Lydia at the church office to place your order. They are \$18 each, and the deadline is March 8th. You may take yours with you after the service. Some lilies will be designated to be given to our members who are in nursing homes or the hospital, or are homebound. Thanks for adding beauty to this special season!



# Help with the Relief Sale!



The IL Mennonite Relief Sale is coming on March 18. How exciting to be part of a way to help people all over the world. Proceeds from the Sale go to help those persons in need. Proceeds from go to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and local relief. Recently MCC sent 13 shipping containers to Ukraine filled with food, warm comforters and other things. Here are some of the ways everyone of all ages can help with the sale. Be sure you find something you can do to help have a successful sale.

## **Dutch Market**

- Stocking and prep on Friday
- Cashier on Saturday
- Runners to keep stock on shelves

## **Sausage and Pancake Breakfast**

- Serving
- Bussing tables (kids with a parent)

## **Apple pies and other fruit pies (recipe for apple pies available)**

## **Baked Goods such as breads, rolls, cookies, candies**

## **Strawberry Pies**

- Thursday 8-12:00 Mix together ingredients and bake crusts
- Friday 8-12:00 Clean and stem strawberries, mix with ingredients, put in bags and boxes.

## **Pie Crusts.... Order on sheet **by February 26****

## **Set up and clean up**

- Signs at Interstate Center

## **Arts and Crafts Booth**

## **Auction items**

## **Quilts, quilts and more quilts for the auction**

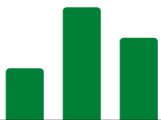
## **Recycling**

## **Sponsor tickets for Breakfast**

## **Who are the Mennonites? Booth**

## **Transportation take pies to Interstate Center**

Questions: check with Gerry or Marcia



## *Spending Plan Update*

## **Spending Plan Status as of January 31, 2023**

*Shared by the Administration Commission*

# Sharing Our Gifts Photos

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Thank you all for sharing wonderful photos of you sharing your gifts! Find a link to the slide show that plays before and after the Sunday worship service [here](#) (or play the video below!) The photos are updated each week so be sure to check back regularly!

*Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team*

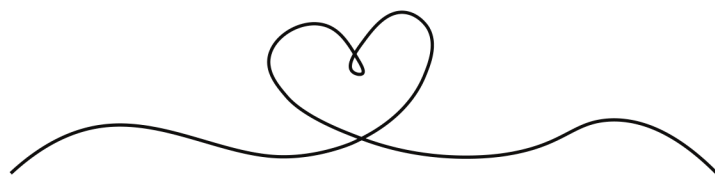


## MEA Lent at Home 2023 - now available!

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MEA is pleased to announce that the 2023 Lent at Home worship guide and daily ritual calendar is now available for free download in English and Spanish. The complete press release including a link to this resource is [here](#).

*Shared by the Pastoral Team*



# *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

**Anniversaries**

**Birthdays**



## *This Week at MCN*

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### **Wednesday, February 22**

**9:30am** Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

**12:00pm** Ash Wednesday Service

**6:00pm** Ash Wednesday Service

**7:00pm** Anabaptism at 500 Group 1

**7:30pm** Vision Team (Zoom)

### **Thursday, February 23**

**7:00am** Next Man Bible Study

**4:00pm** Community Life Commission (Zoom)

**6:30pm** Administration Commission

### **Friday, February 24**

**7:30pm** Goshen College Chamber Choir Concert

### **Saturday, February 25**

**9:00am** Worship Commission (Zoom)

### **Sunday, February 26**

**7:30pm** Adult Choir

### **Tuesday, February 28**

**3:00pm** Pastoral Team





# Those Serving This Week



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**South Greeters:** David family  
**West Greeter:** Judy  
**Welcome Table:** Mary  
**Ushers:** Neely  
**Offering Counter:** Stephanie  
**Worship Planner:** Cindy & Jessica  
**Sharing Prayer Leader:** Lauren  
**Children's Story:** Jessica  
**Scripture Reader:** Cal  
**Technology:** Jaron & Rick  
**Song Leader:** Cindy  
**Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude:** Elsa  
**Infant Nursery – during worship:** Annette  
**Infant Nursery – during CE:** Gabriella  
**Preschool Nursery:** Holly  
**Gather Round:** Jessica

## *Prayer Requests and Announcements*

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Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please continue to send announcements to Lynette so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This is true whether in person or livestreaming on YouTube.

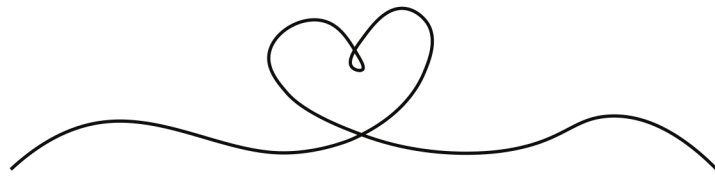


# *Sharing of Joys and Concerns*



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MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR FOR THE TOP ADMINISTRATORS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2023



## *Queer Theology Sunday School: Queer Biblical Hermeneutics*



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**Sunday, March 5th at 5:30pm CST**

Join the Community of Hope Mennonite Church on Zoom for Queer Theology Sunday School: Queer Biblical Hermeneutics. In this event designed queer folks and those who love them, they'll learn how to look at Scripture through the lens of queer theology, including Anabaptist interpretation and identifying queer figures within the Bible. It will open in prayer; welcome Rev. Erica Lea-Simka (she/her) as the guest presenter/teacher; then break into self-selected groups by discussion question, and close in prayer. Register ahead of time [here](#). Email [pastor@communityofhopechurch.com](mailto:pastor@communityofhopechurch.com) with questions.

# Unit 5 Community Presentation

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**TOMORROW, Thursday, February 23 from 6:30pm-8:00pm**

First United Methodist Church, 211 N. School St. in Normal, will host a Community Presentation Thursday, February 23rd, 6:30-8:00 p.m., for gaining understanding of the Unit 5 Education Referendum on the April 4 ballot. Speakers will be Dr. Kirsten Weikle, Unit 5 Superintendent, and Mr. Marty Hickman, Chief Financial Officer of Unit 5. This presentation will be in the sanctuary, and there is convenient parking adjacent to the church.



## Caring for your Heart

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Red in February – not just for Valentine’s day! February is also national heart disease awareness month since 1963! You might already know that heart disease is the #1 cause of death, and that we are all united – affects all ages, genders, ethnicities. The good news is that every person can take action to improve heart health, both for you and those you love! Find more information from the Center for Disease Control [here](#) and from the Carle Newsroom [here](#).

*Article provided by Carle Faith Community Nursing Network.*

## Support international food aid programs

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*Mennonite Central Committee calls us to support international food aid programs*

**Background:** According to the World Food Program, as many as 828 million persons are unsure of where their next meal is coming from, and more than 900,000 are facing famine-like conditions. The global hunger crisis is deepening. Every five years, the United States government reauthorizes the Farm Bill, a piece of legislation designed to address both domestic and international food needs. An important part of the Farm Bill is the [Food for Peace program](#), which addresses the root causes of global food insecurity and malnutrition and helps to build resilience in vulnerable communities. Another important tool to reduce hunger is the flexible cargo preference, which enables faster and more cost-effective delivery of life-saving food assistance.

**Faith reflection:** Scripture admonishes us to “satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday” Isaiah 58:10 (NRSVA).

**Action:** Ask Congress to include strong funding for the Food for Peace program in the 2023 Farm Bill. (Send a message by going [here](#), clicking on "Support international food aid programs," and scrolling to the bottom of the page.)



# AAMA Master Class: Leader Essentials for the Culture

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View a recording of African American Mennonite Association and Mennonite Church USA's introductory webinar hosted by Glen Guyton, with Lesley Francisco McClendon, Leslie Francisco, III, and Nicole Francisco Bailer [here](#).

## Buses, buildings, and people

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*What do buses, buildings, and people have in common?*

No, this is not a trick question, and there is no punchline. The answer is, they all need to be fed. And the costs to feed them – gas for buses, propane for buildings, and food for people – keep rising. Peace Academic Center (PAC) in Kykotsmobi Village, Arizona, located on the Third Mesa in the heart of the Hopi nation, continues to partner with and serve the Hopi people, as Mennonites have done since 1893. Formerly a k-8 school, the Center now offers early childhood and kindergarten education, GED classes, job training, educational conferences, and evening family activities. To support this organization, consider a one-time gift to the Peace Academic Center. Your support, especially in these tough economic times, makes a direct impact in the lives of the indigenous community there. Donate online [here](#). Read the full letter from Mennonite Education Agency's Executive Director, Michael Danner, [here](#).

## MCC responds to earthquakes in Syria

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Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is accepting donations to support people affected by the Feb. 6 earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. MCC is working with long-term partners in Aleppo and surrounding areas to provide emergency food, shelter, hygiene, sanitation supplies and trauma counseling. In a country already vulnerable from years of conflict, this was a devastating blow. You can share God's love and compassion with our global neighbors by providing a gift online at [mcc.org/earthquake](http://mcc.org/earthquake), by calling (888) 563-4676 or by sending a check earmarked for "Syria and Türkiye earthquake" to MCC, PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501.

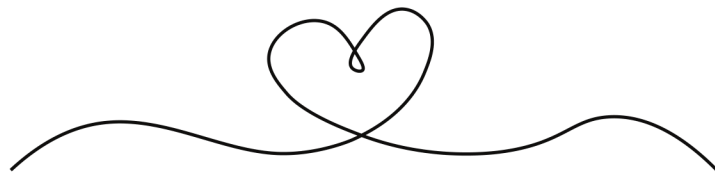


### EARTHQUAKE Türkiye & Syria

Your help is needed to support people affected by the devastating quake in Türkiye and Syria.

MCC is responding with partners in northern Syria after the deadly quake. Your gift will provide essential food, hygiene and trauma counseling.

[mcc.org/earthquake](http://mcc.org/earthquake)



## Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

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<u>Building Open:</u>	Monday–Friday 9AM-11AM and Monday-Wednesday & Friday 1:30PM-3PM.
<u>Lydia Hedberg:</u>	Office Administrator; <a href="mailto:church@normalmennonite.org">church@normalmennonite.org</a> ; 309-452-6622
<u>Rita Munkakusi:</u>	Custodian
<u>Kevin Chupp:</u>	Pastor for Outreach Commission, Worship Commission, Congregational Care Committee, and the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team; <a href="mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org">kevin@normalmennonite.org</a>
<u>Lynette Miller:</u>	Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions
<u>Ron Ropp:</u>	Pastor for Pastoral Care
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

## Items for the Midweek

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Please send items to be included in the Midweek to the [Church Office](#) no later than **8am on Wednesday**. Thank you!

## Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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[Work Order](#) & [Purchase Request](#)

## Structure Documents

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Updated structure documents, including ministry descriptions, vision statement with commission assignments for the goals, structure changes, and a list of individuals called to serve in the new structure, are available at this [link](#).

Please click [here](#) for past meeting and other recordings.